

# TRANSFORMING THE TAR HEEL STATE

## THE LEGACY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

### Historical Facts about Rowan Public Library

Compiled by Gretchen Beilfuss Witt

#### Library Established

1911

#### Notable Librarians

Edith Montcalm Clark was Rowan Public Library's first librarian in 1936.

#### First Bookmobile

The first "book truck" for the library came in September of 1937. The North Carolina Library Commission lent it to the Rowan Public library for the month of September only. It was reported in the newspaper that 4,114 books circulated through the bookmobile during the three weeks the truck made its route. The second bookmobile was provided for Rowan Public Library by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in June, July and August of 1940. The WPA also furnished the workers for the truck as well as 3,000 books. It was an extremely successful venture, so much so that the Rowan County Commission was prepared to purchase a bookmobile. It was ordered in 1941, the first of December. The attack on Pearl Harbor happened a few days later and the U.S. entered the war. The bookmobile was put on hold due to the war, but in 1947 it was expected to arrive. A green Chevrolet panel truck, specifically modified for use as a bookmobile, finally arrived in April of 1948. It was paid for by the North Carolina Library Commission and the County Commission.